

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060922

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DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL:ML

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AIR FORCE - D. DOOLIN

ISA/FMRA - MR. BARRINGER

AF/E - MR. COOTE

L/PM - MR. SURENA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, US, SE

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS ON SEYCHELLES

REF: LONDON 3796

1. ACCEPT WITH PLEASURE BRITISH LUNCHEON OFFER, AT WHICH CHURCHILL, BARRINGER, AND COOTE WOULD REPRESENT US DELEGATION.

2. SCENARIO PROPOSAL BY FCO FOR TALKS REFLECTS VIEW EXPRESSED BY BRITISH EMBASSY HERE THAT AGREEMENT ON TRACKING STATION AND USE OF MAHE AIRPORT CAN BE QUICKLY AND EASILY REACHED. WE HOPE THIS PROVES TRUE, BUT ANTICIPATE HARD NEGOTIATIONS ON SOME ASPECTS OF AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 060922

QUID. AS WE HAVE INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY HERE, OUR BASIC

POSITION IS THAT WE CAN CONSIDER RETURN OF BIOT ISLANDS ONLY IF SATISFACTORY DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE OTHERWISE MADE. WE MUST BE ASSURED THAT AGREEMENT ON TRACKING STATION, AND USE OF MAHE AIRFIELD AT REASONABLE RENTAL PAYMENT IS REACHED BEFORE ADDRESSING ISSUE OF BIOT ISLANDS. THEREFORE BRITISH SCENARIO IS UNACCEPTABLE.

3. WE PREFER FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

A. MARCH 15: IN INFORMAL PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WITH UK, REACH ADVANCE AGREEMENT ON: (A) COURSE OF EVENTS IN TRIPARTITE MEETING; (B) APPROACH TO ISSUES OF DENIAL AND ACCESS; (C) TEXT OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES EXCLUDING ISLANDS FROM BIOT.

B. MARCH 16: PLENARY TRIPARTITE SESSION. EACH DELEGATION DESCRIBES ITS POSITION ON US-SEYCHELLES AGREEMENT FOR TRACKING STATION AND USE OF MAHE AIRFIELD, AND ON RETURN OF ISLANDS. US TABLES DRAFT US-SEYCHELLES AGREEMENT. MEETING ADJOURNS WHILE SEYCHELLES DELEGATION CONSIDERS DRAFT.

C. MARCH 17: WORKING GROUP CONDUCTS POINT-BY-POINT DISCUSSION OF DRAFT AGREEMENT. WHEN AGREEMENT REACHED ON DRAFT, QUESTION OF QUID WILL BE ADDRESSED BY US AND SEYCHELLES DELEGATIONS.

D. MARCH 18: ASSUMING AGREEMENT REACHED ON WORDING OF AGREEMENT AND ON QUID; WE WOULD THEN ADDRESS AGREEMENT ON RETURN OF BIOT ISLANDS.

4. AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING MARCH 16-18 SESSIONS WOULD OF COURSE BE AD REFERENDUM, AND WE WOULD EXPECT SIGNATURE ON BILATERAL US-SEYCHELLES AGREEMENT AND ON EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH UK ON REVISION OF BIOT TO TAKE PLACE WHEN SEYCHELLES ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE.

5. REQUEST YOU PASS THESE VIEWS TO DUTY OFFICER AT FCO AND ATTEMPT ARRANGE MEETING WITH BRITISH EARLY IN THE DAY MARCH 15, SINCE WE HAVE DIFFERENCES TO IRON OUT. KISSINGER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 060922

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